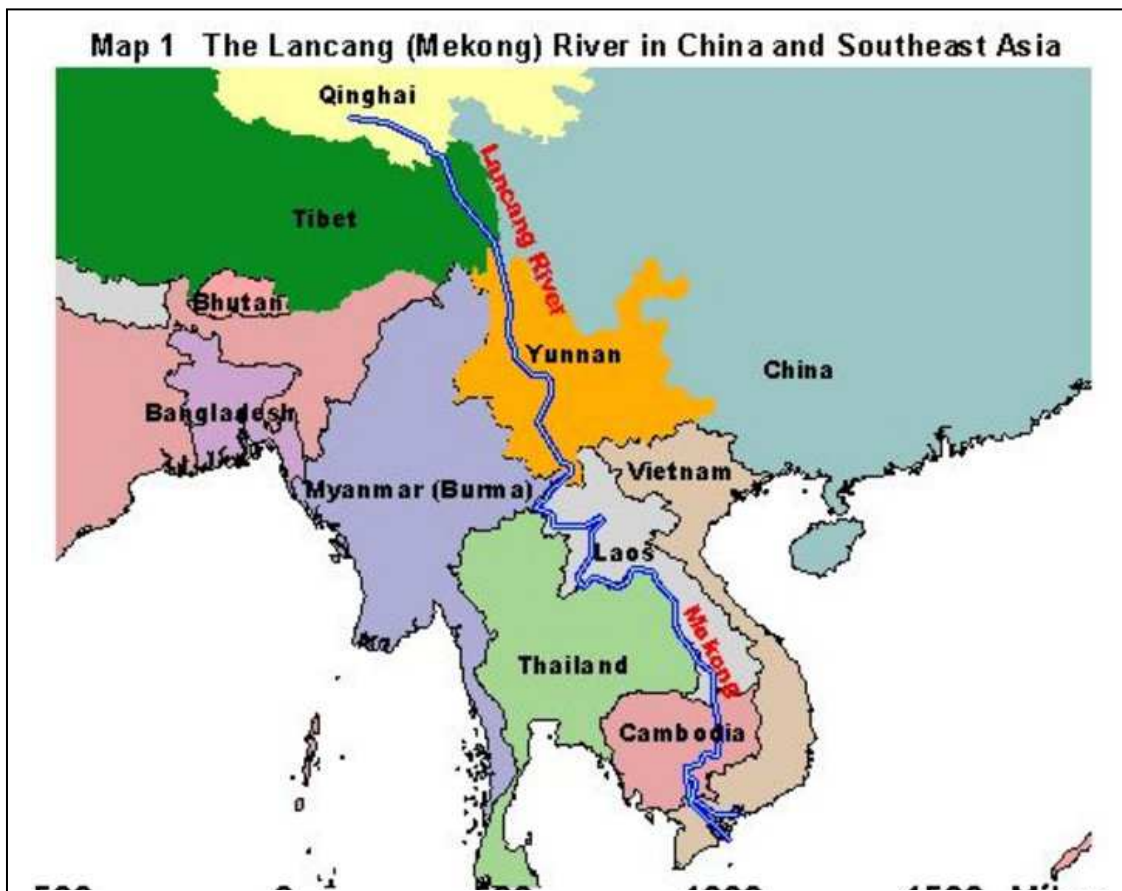


MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION (MRC)

Main features and aims

- Organisation to promote sustainable management and development of water resources especially in the lower Mekong
- 4 member countries – Cambodia, Laos PDR, Thailand, Vietnam
- To promote collaboration between the member countries and China - TRANSBOUNDARY
- Strategic planning of water and a whole basin approach
- Promote economic, social and environmental issues in the Mekong River Basin
- Other stakeholders, World Bank, UN Development programme, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), ASEAN (trade organisation)
- Promote economic development in the Mekong Basin towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)
- Increase HEP output to fill rising demand
- Increase agricultural output through irrigation
- Preserve water quality
- Protect the environment and preserve Biodiversity
- Prevent floods
- Conserve fisheries



The basin integrated management plan

Main theme to develop

- Forestry
- Agriculture and irrigation
- Fisheries
- HEP
- Navigation / Trade
- Mining / Industries / TNC's
- Manage floods/ droughts in the context of climate change

Strategies :-

- But it is accepted that the above bring social and environmental consequences that must be managed
- Transboundary approach needed as dams on the upper river, eg in China have a marked impact on the lower river basin
- Ecology and biodiversity need to be managed to prevent the loss of any of the 30+ endangered species
- Any new developments need to take social impacts into account
- Any new developments need EIA's Environmental Impact Assessments
- Developments must be pro-poor and address the MDG's, particularly increasing food supplies
- Development gaps within countries must be closed
- Regional cooperation is needed in the collection and analysis of a basin wide database of climatological and hydrological data